

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed July 14, 2008 notes that claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17-20, 22-24, 26 and 27 are pending and rejects claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17-20, 22-24, 26, and 27. Claims 1, 10, and 19 are amended. No claims are cancelled. No new claim has been added. No new matter is believed to be presented and approval and entry of the Amendment After Final is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17-20, 22-24, 26 and 27 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. The rejections are traversed below.

As indicated from line 19, on page 2, to line 10, on page 3 of the Application, entering multiple e-mail addresses is laborious and inefficient each time one wants to send an e-mail to the same multiple recipients and creating such a group based upon the combination of e-mail recipients has proven complicated.

Item 2: Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17-20, 22-24, and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraph 2, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17-20, 22-24, and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tafoya et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,952,805) (hereinafter "Tafoya"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraph 3, asserts that Tafoya (column 2, lines 25-41, column 6, line 65-column 7, line 21, column 9, lines 27-39) discloses "generating a group formed of the plurality of multicast target mail destination addresses detected in said history of mail delivery, said group capable of including destination addresses of various destination attributes, when the input count of the detected multicast target mail destination addresses reaches a predetermined number."

The above rejection is respectfully traversed. In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 is amended to recite, in part:

a generating module generating a group formed of the combination of multicast target mail destination addresses detected in said history of mail delivery, when the input count of the combination of detected multicast target mail destination addresses reaches a predetermined number.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion that Tafoya discloses the above recitation of claim 1, as amended, because Tafoya, at column 9, lines 40-48, states:

In addition, **single items within the data store may contain data sufficient for multiple unique entries in the resolution list.** For example, the To, CC, and BCC fields of a sent or received email message within the data store may provide multiple unique email addresses or contact information. **Further, distribution lists in an email message are preferably added as multiple separate entries to the resolution list in the same manner as if each addressee in the distribution list were in a separate email message.**

In other words, while claim 1 recites "**generating a group formed of the combination of multicast target mail destination addresses** detected in said history of mail delivery, when the input count of the combination of detected multicast target mail destination addresses reaches a predetermined number," Tafoya merely discusses adding each separate e-mail address entered into an email To, CC, or BCC field as a unique entry into the resolution list, or adding each separate e-mail address in a distribution list as a unique entry into the resolution list. Further, if a user desires to send an e-mail to multiple recipients and types multiple e-mail addresses according to Tafoya, Tafoya would not generate a group based on the combination of e-mail addresses, but rather enter each separate e-mail address as a unique entry into the resolution list. Thus, Tafoya does not disclose "generating a group of the combination of multicast target mail destination addresses, when the input count of the combination of detected multicast target mail destination addresses reaches a predetermined number" but rather discusses adding a separate unique entry into a resolution list for each e-mail address.

Furthermore, while column 14, lines 12-20 and Table 1 in column 14 of Tafoya indicates that a **group name may be predicted** by entry of characters in the group name, resulting in a popup window, Tafoya does not disclose "an adding module **adding a group name** of the generated group to group management information **by associating with the combination of multicast target mail destination addresses that correspond to the group.**" In other words, Tafoya does not discuss associating a group name with the combination of e-mail addresses. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 10 and 19 recite in a similar manner to claim 1 and thus are also not disclosed by anything cited in the Office Action or found in Tafoya for reasons similar to those found above.

The dependent claims depend from the above-discussed independent claims and are patentable over the cited reference Tafoya for the reasons discussed above. The dependent claims also recite additional features not disclosed by Tafoya. For example, claim 9 recites "a selecting module enabling a user to select whether the generating the group is to be executed or

not." In particular, Tafoya does not disclose prompting or "enabling" a user to select whether to generate a group of e-mail addresses because Tafoya automatically enters unique e-mail address entries into the resolution list without input from the user. Tafoya only prevents entry of an e-mail address, but not a group, into the resolution list when memory is full or if an address is incorrect. It is submitted that the dependent claims are independently patentable over Tafoya.

Summary

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited references. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited. At a minimum, this Amendment After Final should be entered at least for purposes of Appeal as it either clarifies and/or narrows the issues for consideration by the Board.

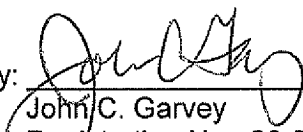
If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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